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16TH FLOOR
ST LOUIS, MO 63102

EXAMINER

COTTON, ABIGAIL MANDA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/27/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 02/27/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

uspatents@senniger.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,970

Applicant(s)

LANGE ET AL.

Examiner

Abigail M. Cotton

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 31-48 and 50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30, 49 and 51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/30/2003 and 11/15/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-51 are pending in the application, with claims 31-48 and 50 having been withdrawn as drawn to a non-elected invention. Accordingly, claims 1-30, 49 and 51 are being examined on the merits herein.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election with traverse of the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-30, 49 and 51, in the reply filed on January 3, 2007, is acknowledged. The traversal is on the grounds that the restriction between the two groups is not proper, and would a search for both groups would not pose an undue burden on the office.

This is not found persuasive because inventions I are II related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case, subcombination II has separate utility such as a moisturizing treatment product for other parts of the face and/or hands. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

The examiner has required restriction between subcombinations usable together. Where applicant elects a subcombination and claims thereto are subsequently found

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allowable, any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable subcombination will be examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. See MPEP § 821.04(a). Applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-30, 49 and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the parenthetical phrase "(by weight)" as recited in claims 1-3, 5, 19-22, 49 and 51. The Examiner notes that the claims are considered to recite a

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broad limitation, namely the amount of each component, followed by a narrow limitation, namely the recitation in parenthesis that the amount is specified as the amount by weight. A broad range or limitation together with a narrow range or limitation that falls within the broad range or limitation (in the same claim) is considered indefinite, since the resulting claim does not clearly set forth the metes and bounds of the patent protection desired. See MPEP § 2173.05(c). Note the explanation given by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in *Ex parte Wu*, 10 USPQ2d 2031, 2033 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1989), as to where broad language is followed by "such as" and then narrow language. The Board stated that this can render a claim indefinite by raising a question or doubt as to whether the feature introduced by such language is (a) merely exemplary of the remainder of the claim, and therefore not required, or (b) a required feature of the claims. Note also, for example, the decisions of *Ex parte Steigewald*, 131 USPQ 74 (Bd. App. 1961); *Ex parte Hall*, 83 USPQ 38 (Bd. App. 1948); and *Ex parte Hasche*, 86 USPQ 481 (Bd. App. 1949). Claims 4, 6-18 and 23-30 are rejected as being dependent upon indefinite claims. Appropriate correction is required.

The Examiner respectfully suggests amending claims to replace "(by weight)" with "by weight".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071755 to Priscilla S. Fox, published April 15, 2004.

Fox teaches a composition in the form of a water soluble sheet for use in the personal care field (see abstract, in particular.) Fox teaches that the sheets comprise a base composition including a water soluble film forming polymer and a humectant (moisturizing agent), and can also comprise skin care ingredients (see abstract, in particular.) Fox teaches that the water soluble film releases the skin care ingredients upon exposure to sufficient moisture (see paragraph 0005, in particular.) Accordingly, it is considered that Fox teaches a single layer film having a water-soluble film-forming polymeric material and a moisturizing agent (humectant) as recited in the claim.

Regarding the solidifying agent, it is noted that Fox teaches that various soaps can be added to the composition, such as sodium octanoate and potassium soaps (see

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paragraph 0033, in particular.) Thus, Fox teaches providing metal soaps, which are disclosed as being suitable as "solidifying agents" in paragraph 0034 of the instant Specification.

Fox does not specifically exemplify a composition having the recited components in the specific weight percentages as claimed.

However, Fox et al. teaches that the composition can contain from 0.75-5% by weight of the water soluble polymer, from 0.75% to 12% by weight of the humectant (moisturizing agent) (see paragraph 0009, in particular), and between 2% to 22% by weight of the soap (solidifying agent) (see paragraph 0033, in particular), which are amounts that meet and/or overlap with the ranges as claimed. It is furthermore noted that Fox teaches that the base composition having the recited percentages is dried by subjecting to heat to form the final sheet product (see paragraph 0049, in particular), and thus the final sheet product can be expected to have a higher percent by weight of each of the components, due to the loss of water in the drying process. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of each of the ingredients provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, to provide a composition having desired properties, such as desired skin treatment properties. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in

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the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Claims 1-18 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071755 to Priscilla S. Fox, published April 15, 2004, in view of JP 11-209222 to Akihiro et al, published August 3, 1999, and further in view of JP 61-176512 to Watanabe, published August 8, 1986.

Fox teaches a composition in the form of a water soluble sheet for use in the personal care field (see abstract, in particular.) Fox teaches that the sheets comprise a base composition including a water soluble film forming polymer and a humectant (moisturizing agent), and can also comprise skin care ingredients (see abstract, in particular.) Fox teaches that the water soluble film releases the skin care ingredients upon exposure to sufficient moisture (see paragraph 0005, in particular.) Accordingly, it is considered that Fox teaches a single layer film having a water-soluble film-forming polymeric material and a moisturizing agent (humectant) as recited in the claim.

Regarding the amounts of each component provided, Fox et al. teaches that the composition can contain from 0.75-5% by weight of the water soluble polymer, from 0.75% to 12% by weight of the humectant (moisturizing agent), which are amounts that meet and/or overlap with the ranges as claimed. It is furthermore noted that Fox teaches that the base composition having the recited percentages is dried by subjecting

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to heat to form the final sheet product (see paragraph 0049, in particular), and thus the final sheet product can be expected to have a higher percent by weight of each or the components, due to the loss of water in the drying process. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of each of the ingredients provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, to provide a composition having desired properties, such as desired skin treatment properties. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Fox does not specifically teach that the product is sized and configured for application to the lips, as recited in claim 1. Fox also does not specifically teach providing a "solidifying agent" such as one of those recited in claim 10 that is suitable for lip care treatment in particular. However, Fox does teach that skin conditioning ingredients such as emollients and humectants can be added to the water soluble sheet to provide these ingredients to skin.

Akihiro et al. teaches that a sheet-like humectant pack can be provided for the treatment of lips (see abstract, in particular), and especially to moisturize dry lips by providing a humectant (see abstract and paragraph 0001, in particular.) Akihiro et al.

teaches that sheets for application to the lips can be sized and configured to fit the lips (see paragraph 0020, in particular.)

Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to provide the water soluble skin care sheet of Fox in a form that is sized and configured for application to lips, as in the sheet taught by Akihiro et al, because Fox teaches the sheet is capable of delivering skin care ingredients such as humectants and emollients to skin, whereas Akihiro et al. teaches that the lips are a part of the skin that it is known can be treated via application of sheet-type compositions, such as sheet compositions that deliver humectants to moisturize the lips, and that it is also known to size and configure such sheet compositions for lip application. Thus, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to provide the skin care sheet of Fox in a size and configuration suitable for application to lips, with the expectation of providing a sheet composition capable of imparting cosmetic benefits, such as moisturizing benefits, to the lips.

Fox and Akihiro et al. do not specifically teach providing a "solidifying agent" in the lip care composition, such as one of those recited in claim 10. However, it is noted that Fox teaches that a wide variety of skin care ingredients including various emollients and humectants can also be added to the composition (see paragraphs 0015 and 0037-

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0038, in particular.) Fox and Akihiro also teach that the lips can be treated to moisturize the lips, as discussed above.

Watanabe teaches that drying and chapping of the lips can be treated by providing to the lips a humectant and an oleaginous wax that is effective to supply the skin with moderate oiliness, such as olive oil and lanolin (an animal wax) (see abstract, in particular), and thus teaches the solidifying agents as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to provide the oleaginous wax of Watanabe in the lip treatment composition of Fox and Akihiro et al, because Fox and Akihiro et al. teach that lips can be treated to moisturize with the treatment sheets, and that such sheets can contain treatment actives such as moisturizers and humectants, and Watanabe teaches that oleaginous waxes can be provided to treat dry and chapped lips. Thus, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to provide the oleaginous waxes as a skin care additive in the lip treatment sheets of Fox and Akihiro et al, with the expectation of providing a suitable skin care active capable of moisturizing and treating dry lips.

Regarding the amount of oleaginous wax provided, it is noted that Fox teaches that up to 50% by weight of the base composition can be added skin feel ingredients such as the humectants and moisturizers (see paragraphs 0037-0039, in particular),

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which is an amount that meets and/or overlaps with that claimed. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of the oleaginous wax provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe, to provide a composition having desired properties. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Accordingly, claims 1 and 10 are considered to be obvious over the teachings of Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe.

Regarding claims 2-3, it is noted, as discussed above, that Fox teaches a general range that is suitable for the water-soluble polymer in the "base composition." It is furthermore noted that Fox teaches that the base composition having the recited percentages is dried by subjecting to heat to form the final sheet product (see paragraph 0049, in particular), and thus the final sheet product can be expected to have a higher percent by weight of each of the components, such as the water-soluble film forming product due to the loss of water in the drying process. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of each of the water-soluble polymer provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox,

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Akihiro et al. and Watanabe, to provide a composition having desired properties, such as desired skin treatment properties. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Regarding claim 4, Fox teaches that the water-soluble film forming polymeric material can be polyvinylpyrrolidone (see paragraph 0010, in particular), as recited in the claim.

Regarding claim 5, Fox teaches that the humectant can be present in an amount of from 0.75% to 12% (see paragraph 0009, in particular), which is an amount that meets and/or overlaps with that claimed. Furthermore, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of humectant provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe, to provide a composition having desired properties. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Regarding claims 6-7, Fox teaches that a preferred humectant is propylene glycol (see paragraph 0009, in particular), and can also include other humectants such as glycerin (see paragraph 0012, in particular), as recited in the claims.

Regarding claims 8-9, Fox teaches that other skin conditioning agents added to the composition can include petrolatum (see paragraph 0038, in particular), and thus teaches providing the occlusive-type moisturizing agent as claimed.

Regarding claims 11-12, it is noted that Fox teaches various methods of forming the sheet (see paragraphs 0014-0017, in particular) and also teaches that different amounts of the ingredients, such as the magnesium aluminum silicate, can result in more viscous base compositions that affect the thickness of the resulting sheet product (see paragraph 0009, in particular.) Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of the ingredients such as the magnesium aluminum silicate provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe, to provide a sheet composition having desired properties, such as a desired thickness. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Regarding claims 13-16, it is noted that Fox teaches that various ingredients in the compositions, such as the type and amount of surfactant provided, can affect the solubility and dissolution rate of the composition (see paragraph 0033, in particular.) Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount and type of the ingredients provided in the sheet composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe to provide a composition having desired dissolving properties, such as a desired dissolving duration. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Regarding the length of the product as recited in claim 17, it is noted that Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe render obvious shaping and configuring the composition for application to lips, as discussed above. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious based on the teachings of these references to provide a length of the sheet that is suitable to fit on at least a portion of the lips, such as a length of no more than about 8 centimeters, with the expectation of providing a suitable treatment composition for the lips.

Regarding claim 18, Fox teaches that the composition can contain aloe, vitamin E acetate, and others (see paragraph 0038, in particular), as well as antibacterial

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agents (see paragraph 0046, in particular), and thus teaches providing pharmaceutically acceptable agents and antimicrobials, as recited in the claim.

Regarding claim 49, Fox and Akihiro et al. render obvious a single-use lip treatment that is sized and configured for application to the lips, and that contains the water-soluble film forming polymeric material, the moisturizing agent and solidifying agent in the amounts as claimed, as has been discussed for claim 1 above. Fox furthermore teaches that the composition can contain the vinyl polymer that is polyvinyl alcohol (see paragraph 0009, in particular), which is a water-dispersible polymer as indicated by Applicants on page 8 of the Specification. Fox teaches that the polyvinyl alcohol can be provided in an amount of from about 6.5% to about 23% by weight of the composition (see paragraph 0009, in particular), which is an amount that meets and/or overlaps with the amount recited in the claim. It is furthermore noted that Fox teaches that the base composition having the recited percentages is dried by subjecting to heat to form the final sheet product (see paragraph 0049, in particular), and thus the final sheet product can be expected to have a higher percent by weight of each or the components, due to the loss of water in the drying process. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of the polyvinyl alcohol provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe, to provide a composition having desired properties, such as desired skin benefit delivering properties. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a

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claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Claims 19-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0071755 to Priscilla S. Fox, published April 15, 2004, in view of JP 11-209222 to Akihiro et al, published August 3, 1999 and JP 61-176512 to Watanabe, published August 8, 1986, and further in view of WO 03/030881 A1 to Yang et al, published April 17, 2003.

Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe are applied as discussed for claim 1 above, and render obvious a dissolving lip moisturizing product comprising a water-soluble polymer, a humectant that can comprise glycerin, and a solidifying agent that can be an oleaginous wax, in the amounts as claimed, and that is sized and configured for application to lips.

Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe do not specifically teach that the dissolvable product contains pullulan, as required by claim 19. However, Fox teaches that the base composition for the film is made up of a water soluble polymer and polyvinyl alcohol (see paragraph 0009, in particular.)

Yang teaches water-soluble delivery systems in the form of a film and comprising a glucan (see abstract, in particular). Yang teaches that the film is ingestible, but that it is also capable of delivering pharmaceutical, cosmetic or biologically active agents (see abstract, in particular.) Yang teaches that the polymer pullulan is the preferred glucan, because of its high water solubility (see pages 1, 3 and 5), and thus teaches that pullulan is a water-soluble polymer suitable for forming water soluble and dissolvable films and/or sheets for the delivery of cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical agents. Yang et al. also teaches that the pullulan can be suitably used in combination with other polymeric materials to form the film, such as polyvinyl alcohol (see page 5, lines 20-35, in particular.)

Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to provide the pullulan of Yang in the dissolving sheet composition of Fox, Akihiro and Watanabe, because Fox, Akihiro and Watanabe teach the dissolving sheet comprises a water soluble polymer, and Yang teaches that pullulan is a water soluble polymer that can be advantageously used in dissolving film preparations, and that is also suitably used in combination with polyvinyl alcohol, as taught by Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated provide pullulan as the water soluble polymer in the sheet preparation of Fox, Akihiro et al. and Watanabe, with the expectation of providing a polymer that is suitable for forming the dissolving sheet compositions, and that can also be suitably combined with polyvinyl alcohol for forming such compositions.

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Accordingly, claim 19 is considered to be obvious over the teachings of Fox, Akihiro et al, Watanabe and Yang et al.

Regarding the amounts of pullulan and glycerin each component provided, as recited in claims 20-22, Fox et al. teaches that the composition can contain from 0.75-5% by weight of the water soluble polymer, and from 0.75% to 12% by weight of the humectant (moisturizing agent), which are amounts that meet and/or overlap with the ranges as claimed. It is furthermore noted that Fox teaches that the base composition having the recited percentages is dried by subjecting to heat to form the final sheet product (see paragraph 0049, in particular), and thus the final sheet product can be expected to have a higher percent by weight of each of the components, due to the loss of water in the drying process. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of each of the ingredients provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, to provide a composition having desired properties, such as desired skin treatment properties. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Regarding claim 23, Watanabe teaches providing an oleaginous wax that is effective to supply the skin with moderate oiliness, such as olive oil and lanolin (an

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animal wax) (see abstract, in particular), as has been discussed for claim 1 above, and thus teaches the solidifying agents as recited in claim 23.

Regarding claims 24-25, it is noted that Fox teaches various methods of forming the sheet (see paragraphs 0014-0017, in particular) and also teaches that different amounts of the ingredients, such as the magnesium aluminum silicate, can result in more viscous base compositions that affect the thickness of the resulting sheet product (see paragraph 0009, in particular.) Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount of the ingredients such as the magnesium aluminum silicate provided in the composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, Akihiro et al, Watanabe and Yang, to provide a sheet composition having desired properties, such as a desired thickness. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Regarding claims 26-28, it is noted that Fox teaches that various ingredients in the compositions, such as the type and amount of surfactant provided, can affect the solubility and dissolution rate of the composition (see paragraph 0033, in particular.) Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to vary and/or optimize the amount and type of

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the ingredients provided in the sheet composition, according to the guidance provided by Fox, Akihiro et al, Watanabe and Yang, to provide a composition having desired dissolving properties, such as a desired dissolving duration. It is noted that "[W]here the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation." In re Aller, 220 F.2d 454, 456, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955.)

Regarding the length of the product as recited in claim 29, it is noted that Fox, Akihiro et al, Watanabe and Yang render obvious shaping and configuring the composition for application to lips, as discussed above. Accordingly, it is considered that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious based on the teachings of these references to provide a length of the sheet that is suitable to fit on at least a portion of the lips, such as a length of no more than about 8 centimeters, with the expectation of providing a suitable treatment composition for the lips.

Regarding claim 30, Fox teaches that the composition can contain aloe, vitamin E acetate, and others (see paragraph 0038, in particular), as well as antibacterial agents (see paragraph 0046, in particular), and thus teaches providing pharmaceutically acceptable agents and antimicrobials, as recited in the claim.


Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Abigail M. Cotton whose telephone number is (571) 272-8779. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00, M-F. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreenivasan Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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